



# DCNC FORUM

Volume I, Issue I

Diagnostic Center, Northern California

- Special points of interest:
- Training for 2005-2006
  - Consultation/Overview of Services/The Doctor is In.
  - Positive Environments, Network of Trainers
  - Technology to Improve Reading and Writing.
  - (PENT) Website

## Promoting Excellence in Special Education

The Diagnostic Center, Northern California is pleased to launch the first issue of DCNC Forum. The Forum will be published quarterly, available either by mail or email to all SELPA Directors and Directors of Special Education programs in the Northern California region. We encourage you to read this and share reprints with your staff.

If you are unfamiliar with the Diagnostic Center, Northern California, allow me to introduce you to our services. The Diagnostic Center, Northern California, is one of three regional assessment centers operated by the State Special Schools and Services Division of the California Department of Education. The Centers provide assessments, professional development, consultation and technical assistance to school districts in California. The Diagnostic Center, Northern California serves the 351 school districts located in the northern region of the state.

### Services include:

- Comprehensive, state-of-the-art assessment and educational planning services to assist school districts in addressing the needs of their most complex, difficult to serve special education students.
- Technical assistance and consultation in program and instructional design and delivery.
- Professional developmental opportunities for teachers, administrators, special education staff, families and service agency personnel.

### Referral Trends

Ever wonder why students are referred to the Diagnostic Center? Students are usually referred for more than one reason. The top five reasons last year were:

- 62% diagnosis
- 58% instructional planning/ accommodations
- 50% lack of Progress
- 46% parent/district conflict
- 45% social emotional issues

### 202 Individual Assessments Completed

Last year, 202 assessments were completed, of these,

- 64% were completed at the school site
- 6% were completed at the Diagnostic Center
- 30% were a combination of School and Center

Diagnostic questions, coupled with the student's educational profile, guide the planning and implementation, as well as the location of the assessment. Each assessment is individualized; guided by a set of educationally relevant diagnostic questions; and designed to support the district's efforts by providing specialized intervention strategies and programming options.

### Can We Help?

As you are preparing an application for assessment services, why not call Mary Anne Nielsen (510-794-2500) for assistance in developing your diagnostic questions? A pre-referral call often speeds up the process, ensuring that the district's questions are appropriate and all required documents are identified.

### Consultation, Anyone?

Site, District or SELPA teams are invited to consult with DC specialists. Individual student consultation can be especially helpful when a diagnosis is in question, when the IEP team would like assistance planning the "next steps" of a student's program, or to understand the educational implications of a certain medical and/or mental health conditions. Services are available at the Diagnostic Center or via videoconferencing. Contact Renee Dawson, Assistant Director, at 510-794-2500 for more information.

### The Doctor is In

Next year, Kay Browne, M.D., Behavioral Pediatrician is offering an unique opportunity for your staff to meet her and hear *Tips on Monitoring Medications in the Classroom* and *What's a Neurodevelopment Disorder and Why Should I Know About It?* These one and a half hour presentations will be offered at the Diagnostic Center September 21, November 2, March 1 and April 19. See the 2005-2006 Training Brochure for more information at [www.dcn-cde.ca.gov](http://www.dcn-cde.ca.gov).



We're on the Web!  
[www.dcn-cde.ca.gov](http://www.dcn-cde.ca.gov)

Diagnostic Center, Northern California

39100 Gallaudet Drive  
 Fremont, CA 94538

Tel: 510-794-2500

Fax: 510-794-2513

E-mail: [mnielsen@dcn-cde.ca.gov](mailto:mnielsen@dcn-cde.ca.gov)

# May 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

■ DCN will begin accepting training requests on May 2nd.

## Trainings for 2005-2006

- We will begin accepting requests for training services on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Look for the Training Brochure to be mailed to SELPA's April 25<sup>th</sup> and posted April 29<sup>th</sup> at [www.dcn-cde.ca.gov](http://www.dcn-cde.ca.gov). Training are available to SELPAs and County Offices of Education. District directors should meet with their SELPA or COE to coordinate offerings. While scheduled on a "first come, first served" basis, attempts are made to distribute trainings equitably to meet our geographic limitations.
- We have expanded our web-based training options. If you haven't visited the AskASpecialist webpage, take a minute to do so! You'll find an incredible array of resources in the areas of Assistive Technology, Behavior, ADHD, Transition And Medical Issues. Also look for two new additions: The PENT page and soon, The Curriculum Relevant page.
- 102 formal presentations were provided to over 4500 participants last year.

## Overview of Services Available

An hour presentation is available to the northern California SELPAs and COEs to explain how to access DC services. The presentation includes a walkthrough of the referral package, discussion of eligibility, and time for questions. Contact Mary Anne Nielsen for more information.

## Positive Environments, Network of Trainers (PENT) Website Available

We are pleased to announce the availability of the PENT website: [www.PENT.ca.gov](http://www.PENT.ca.gov). This website, recommended to all educators, provides training materials, handouts and links to resources found helpful to support students with behavioral challenges and unique learning needs. Developed by Diana Browning-Wright, you'll find materials for schools, classroom and individuals; information on disabilities and effective behavior supports, special education law and related topics.

## Technology to Improve Reading and Writing

Jill Rivers, Assistive Technology Specialist recommends a publication, "Using Technology to Improve Reading and Writing Outcomes for Learning Disabled Students: A Sequenced Approach. Developed by Ann Black, Director of the Special Education Technology Center at Central Washington University, this report describes a series of steps to develop an assistive technology program to support reading and writing. This approach provides "how to get started with no financial investment and how best to augment your technology resources in gradual steps when money becomes available." The report can be downloaded at <http://www.cwu.edu/~setc/ldtech>.

